



July 23, 2001

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**The Honorable John Dingell**  
**Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce Committee**  
**2322 Rayburn House Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**Dear Representative Dingell:**

On behalf of the American Liver Foundation (ALF), I am writing to express support for H.R. 2563, the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001.

ALF is a national voluntary health organization dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of hepatitis and other liver diseases through research and education. ALF has 30 Chapters nationwide and provides information to more than 300,000 patients and families. More than 70,000 physicians and scientists, including primary care practitioners and liver specialists, also receive information from ALF.

ALF supports a comprehensive patients' bill of rights that puts the patient first and foremost, by providing timely access to specialty care, a guaranteed point-of-service option, and strong internal and external appeals processes. It is important, however, to ensure that a strong, enforceable patients' protection act is passed and signed into law this year. We encourage you to work with the House of Representatives and the White House to produce a bill that can be signed into law.

We thank you for your tireless leadership on this issue and for all of your persistence and work in bettering the health of the nation.

**Sincerely,**

**Alan Brownstein**  
**President and CEO**